



THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Bacteriology

January 24, 1949.

Mr. Robert S. Gill
The Passano Foundation Inc.
Mt. Royal & Guilford Aves.
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Dear Mr. Gill:

In answer to your letter of January 20th, may I offer the following vote:

Oswald T. Avery - 6
Phillip Levine and Alexander Wiener - 3
Charles B. Huggins - 1

My reason for preferring Dr. Avery is that I believe his contributions are more fundamental and far reaching even than the others. Dr. Avery, together with Dr. Michael Heidelberger, whose interest he enlisted, has established the patterns of investigation of bacterial chemistry and immunology which have been followed by the principal investigators in these fields throughout the world for almost thirty years. Latterly Dr. Avery's work on the transforming substance which determines type specificity in pneumococci has been an original and fundamental contribution to the genetics of microorganisms whose implications will be felt for an indefinite period in the future. It is given to few men indeed so profoundly and so constructively to influence whole areas of science. The clinical superstructure will not be reared on these foundations for many years, whereas the contributions of the other three men are much closer to current clinical application. However, I have little hesitancy in casting my vote for the more searching and fundamental contributions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Stuart', is written over a horizontal line.

Stuart Mudd

SM:jlh